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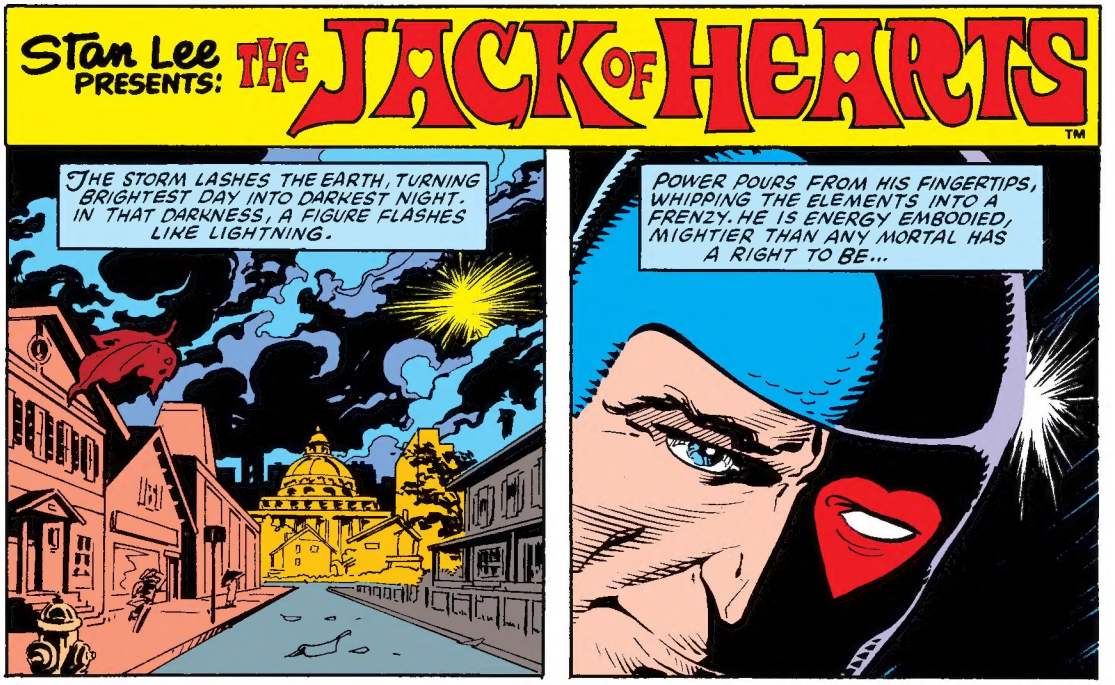
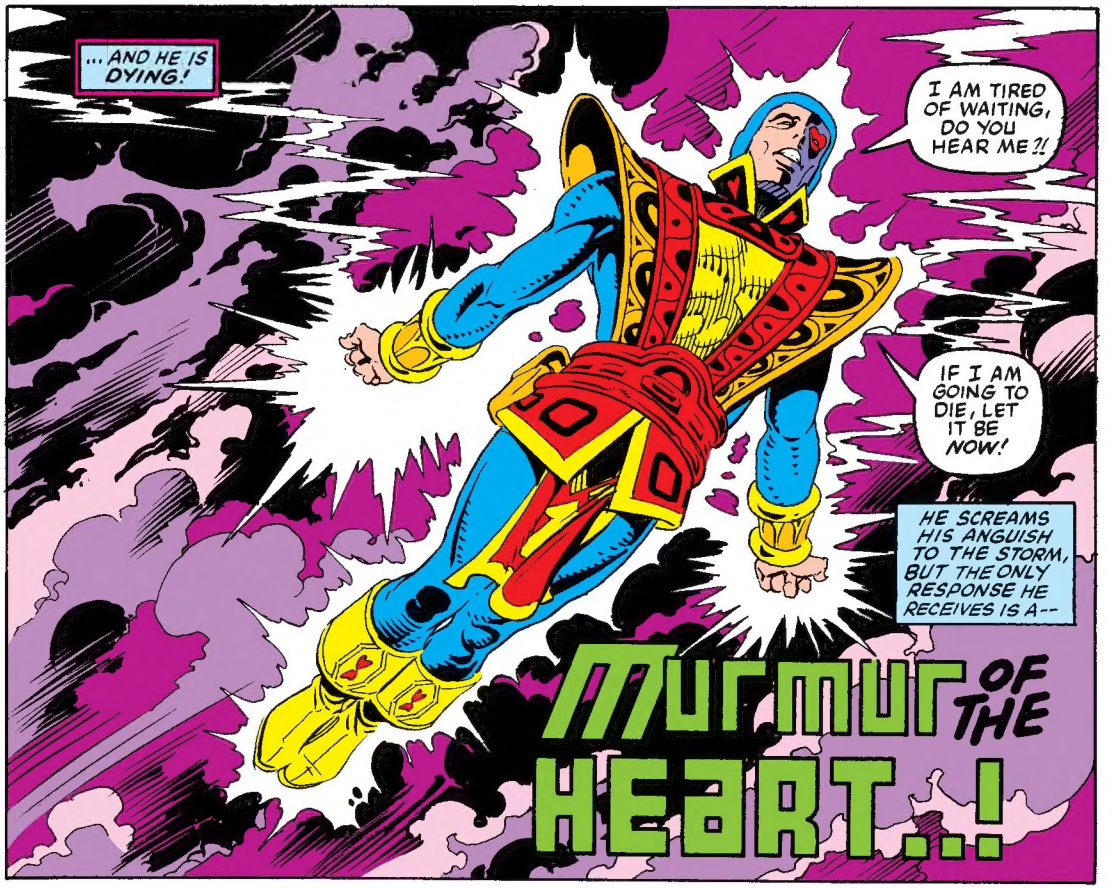
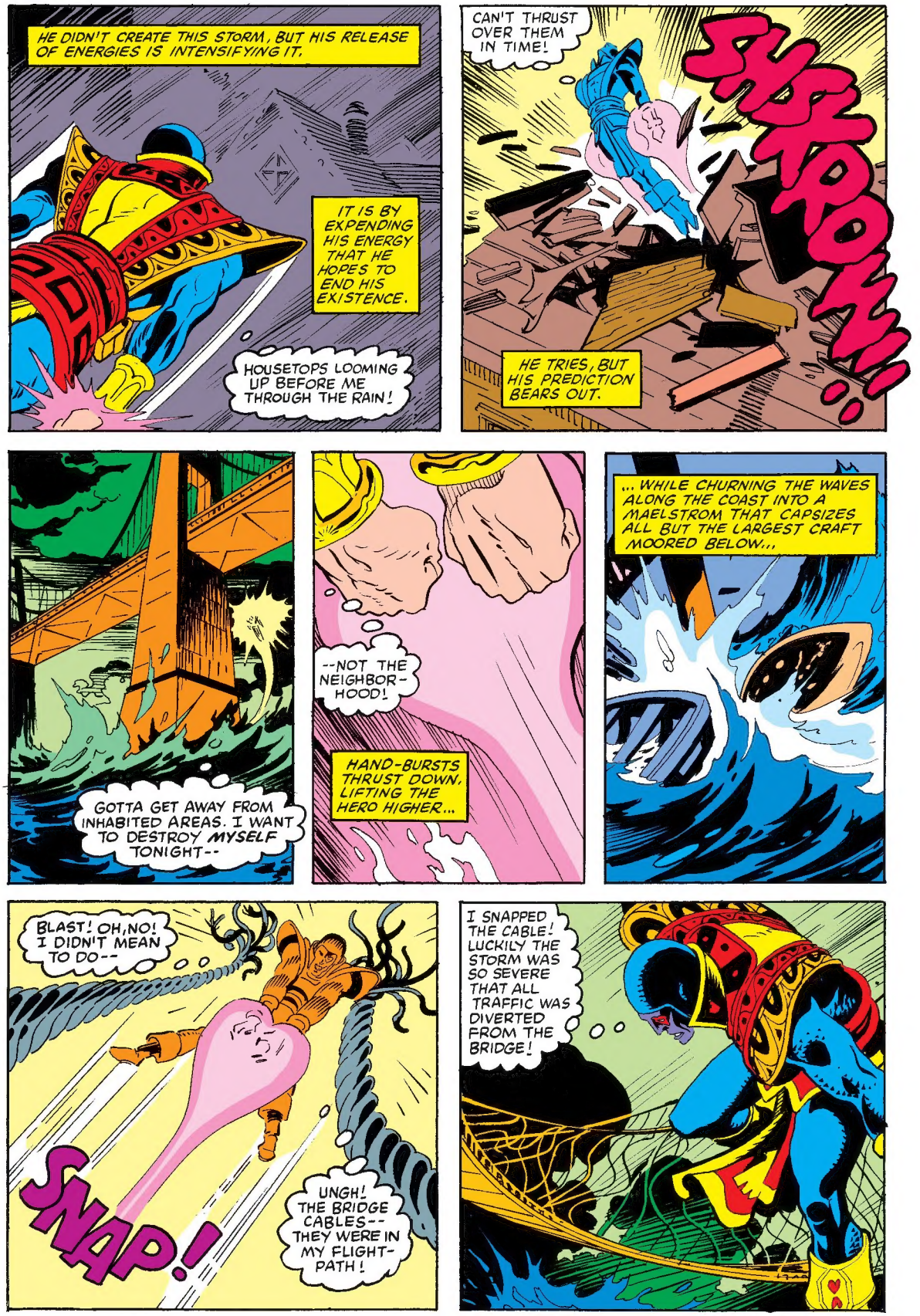
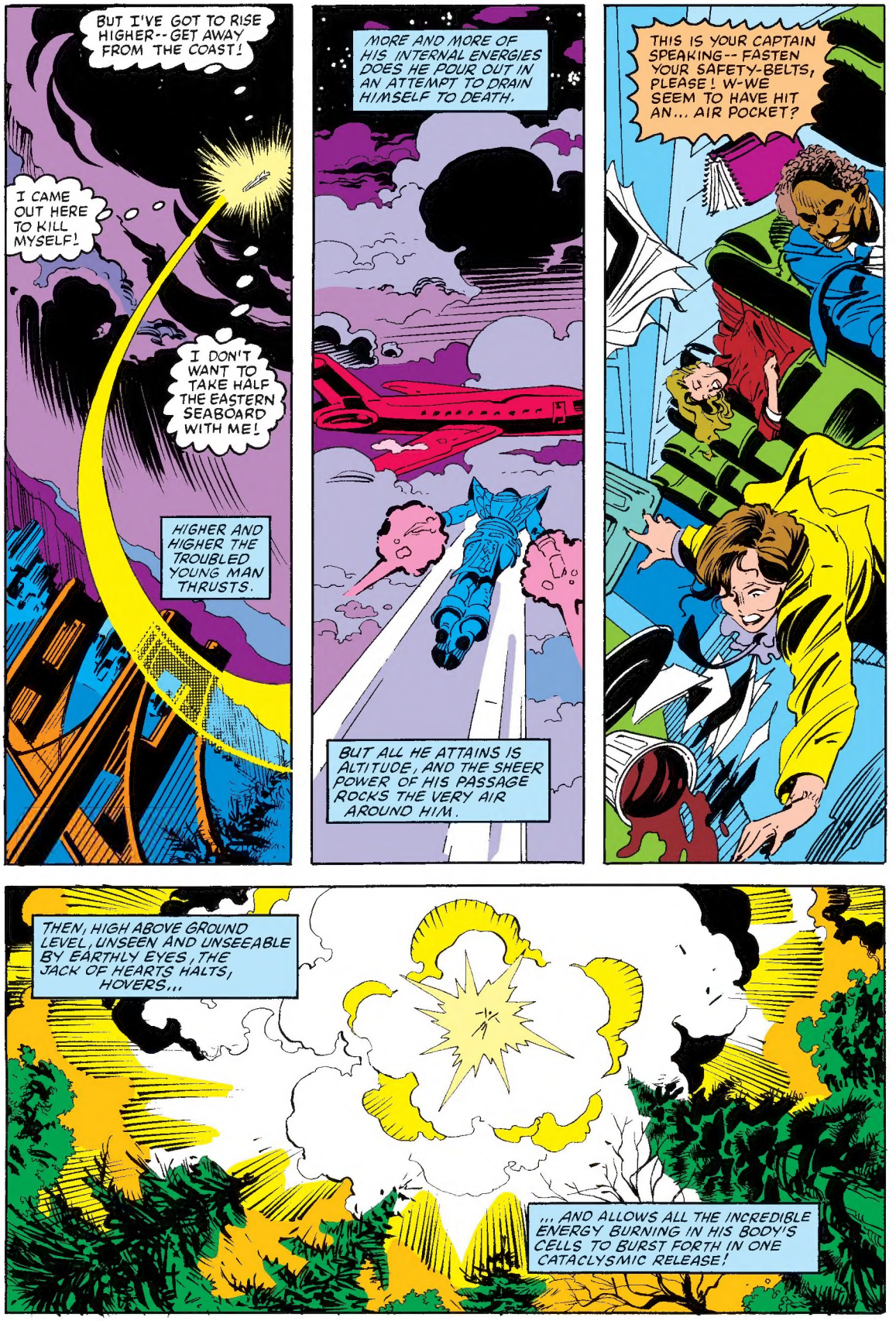
#1 IN A FOUR-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

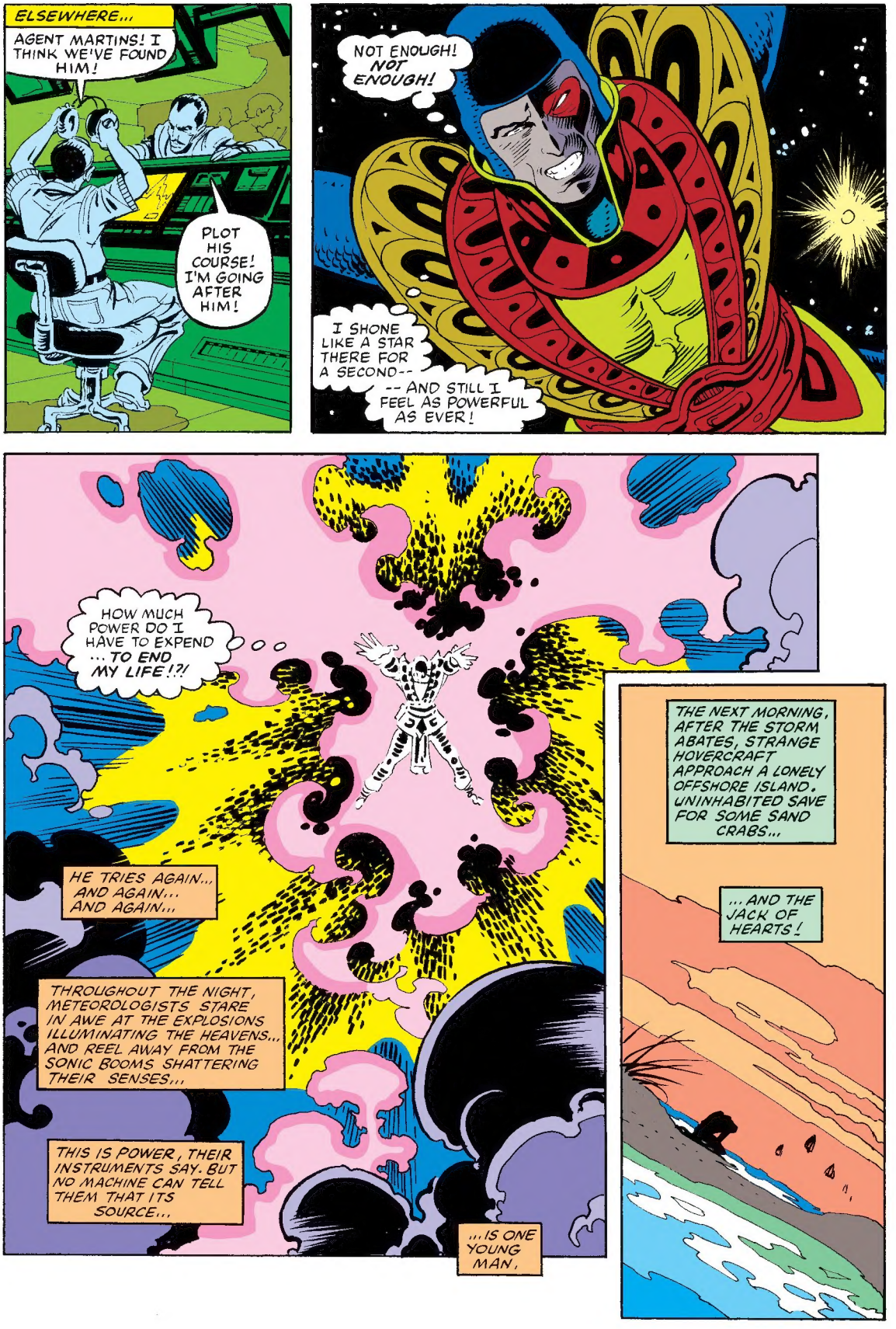
THE JACK OF HEARTS™

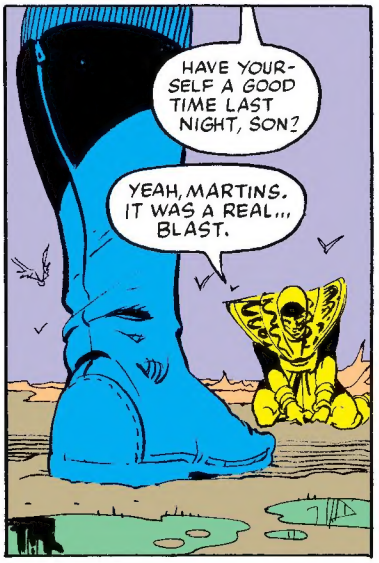

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE JACK OF HEARTS ™
THE STORM LASHES THE EARTH, TURNING BRIGHTEST DAY INTO DARKEST NIGHT. IN THAT DARKNESS, A FIGURE FLASHES LIKE LIGHTNING.
POWER POURS FROM HIS FINGERTIPS, WHIPPING THE ELEMENTS INTO A FRENZY. HE IS ENERGY EMBODIED, MIGHTIER THAN ANY MORTAL HAS A RIGHT TO BE...
BILL MANTLO - WRITER • GEORGE FREEMAN - ARTIST • JOHN MORELLI - LETTERER
NICK BURNS - COLORIST • BOB BUDIANSKY - EDITOR • JIM SHOOTER - EDITOR IN CHIEF


...AND HE IS DYING!
I AM TIRED OF WAITING, DO YOU HEAR ME?!
IF I AM GOING TO DIE, LET IT BE NOW!
HE SCREAMS HIS ANGUISH TO THE STORM, BUT THE ONLY RESPONSE HE RECEIVES IS A--
MURMUR OF THE HEART..!


HE DIDN'T CREATE THIS STORM, BUT HIS RELEASE OF ENERGIES IS INTENSIFYING IT.
IT IS BY EXPENDING HIS ENERGY THAT HE HOPES TO END HIS EXISTENCE.
HOUSETOPS LOOMING UP BEFORE ME THROUGH THE RAIN!
CAN'T THRUST OVER THEM IN TIME!
SHSTROH!!
HE TRIES, BUT HIS PREDICTION BEARS OUT.
GOTTA GET AWAY FROM INHABITED AREAS. I WANT TO DESTROY MYSELF TONIGHT--
--NOT THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD!
HAND-BURSTS THRUST DOWN, LIFTING THE HERO HIGHER...
... WHILE CHURNING THE WAVES ALONG THE COAST INTO A MAELSTROM THAT CAPSIZES ALL BUT THE LARGEST CRAFT MOORED BELOW...
BLAST! OH,NO! I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO--
SNAP!
UNGH! THE BRIDGE CABLES-- THEY WERE IN MY FLIGHT-PATH!
I SNAPPED THE CABLE! LUCKILY THE STORM WAS SO SEVERE THAT ALL TRAFFIC WAS DIVERTED FROM THE BRIDGE!

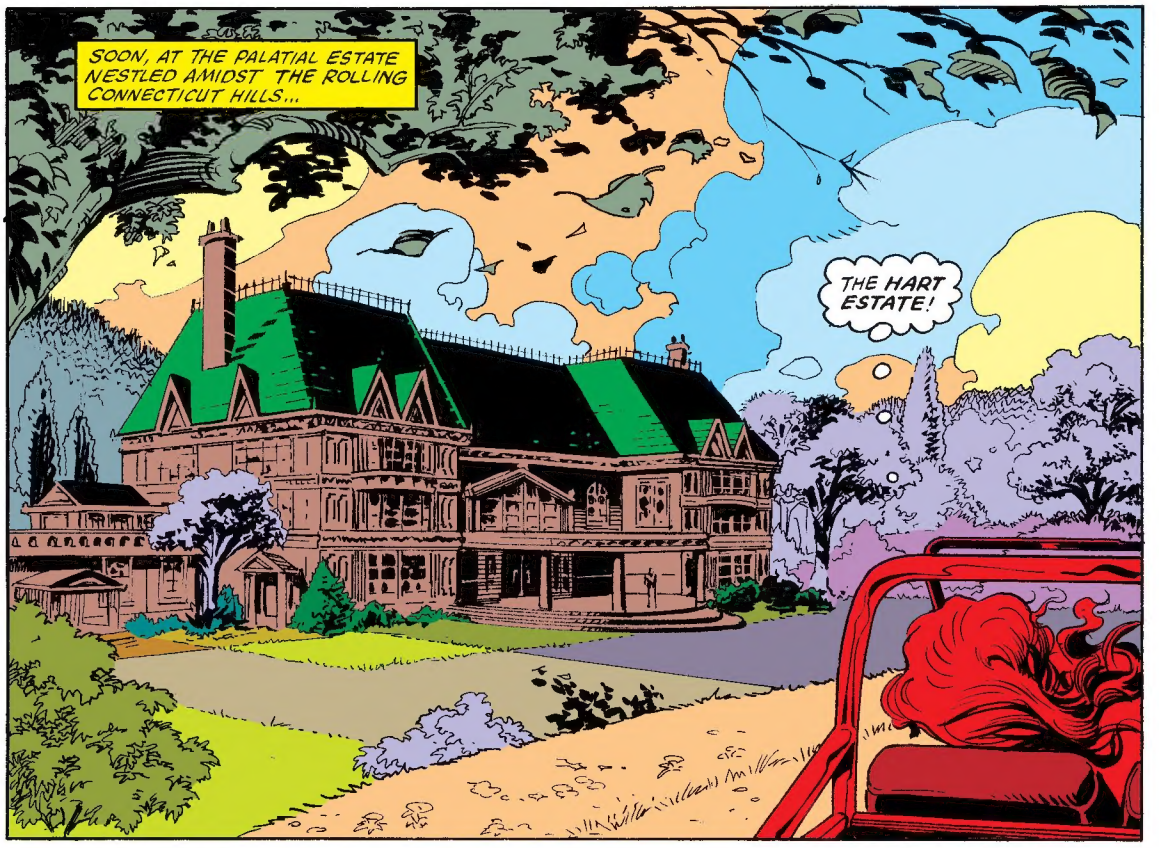

BUT I'VE GOT TO RISE HIGHER--GET AWAY FROM THE COAST!
I CAME OUT HERE TO KILL MYSELF!
I DON'T WANT TO TAKE HALF THE EASTERN SEABOARD WITH ME!
HIGHER AND HIGHER THE TROUBLED YOUNG MAN THRUSTS.
MORE AND MORE OF HIS INTERNAL ENERGIES DOES HE POUR OUT IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAIN HIMSELF TO DEATH.
BUT ALL HE ATTAINS IS ALTITUDE, AND THE SHEER POWER OF HIS PASSAGE ROCKS THE VERY AIR AROUND HIM.
THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING-- FASTEN YOUR SAFETY-BELTS, PLEASE! W-WE SEEM TO HAVE HIT AN... AIR POCKET?
THEN, HIGH ABOVE GROUND LEVEL, UNSEEN AND UNSEEABLE BY EARTHLY EYES, THE JACK OF HEARTS HALTS, HOVERS...
... AND ALLOWS ALL THE INCREDIBLE ENERGY BURNING IN HIS BODY'S CELLS TO BURST FORTH IN ONE CATACLYSMIC RELEASE!

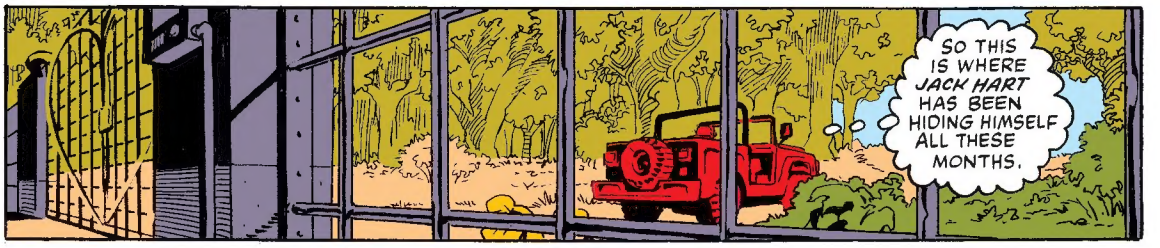

ELSEWHERE...
AGENT MARTINS! I THINK WE'VE FOUND HIM!
PLOT HIS COURSE! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!
NOT ENOUGH! NOT ENOUGH!
I SHONE LIKE A STAR THERE FOR A SECOND--
-- AND STILL I FEEL AS POWERFUL AS EVER!
HOW MUCH POWER DO I HAVE TO EXPEND ...TO END MY LIFE!?!
HE TRIES AGAIN... AND AGAIN... AND AGAIN...
THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, METEOROLOGISTS STARE IN AWE AT THE EXPLOSIONS ILLUMINATING THE HEAVENS... AND REEL AWAY FROM THE SONIC BOOMS SHATTERING THEIR SENSES...
THIS IS POWER, THEIR INSTRUMENTS SAY. BUT NO MACHINE CAN TELL THEM THAT ITS SOURCE...
...IS ONE YOUNG MAN,
THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER THE STORM ABATES, STRANGE HOVERCRAFT APPROACH A LONELY OFFSHORE ISLAND. UNINHABITED SAVE FOR SOME SAND CRABS...
...AND THE JACK OF HEARTS!

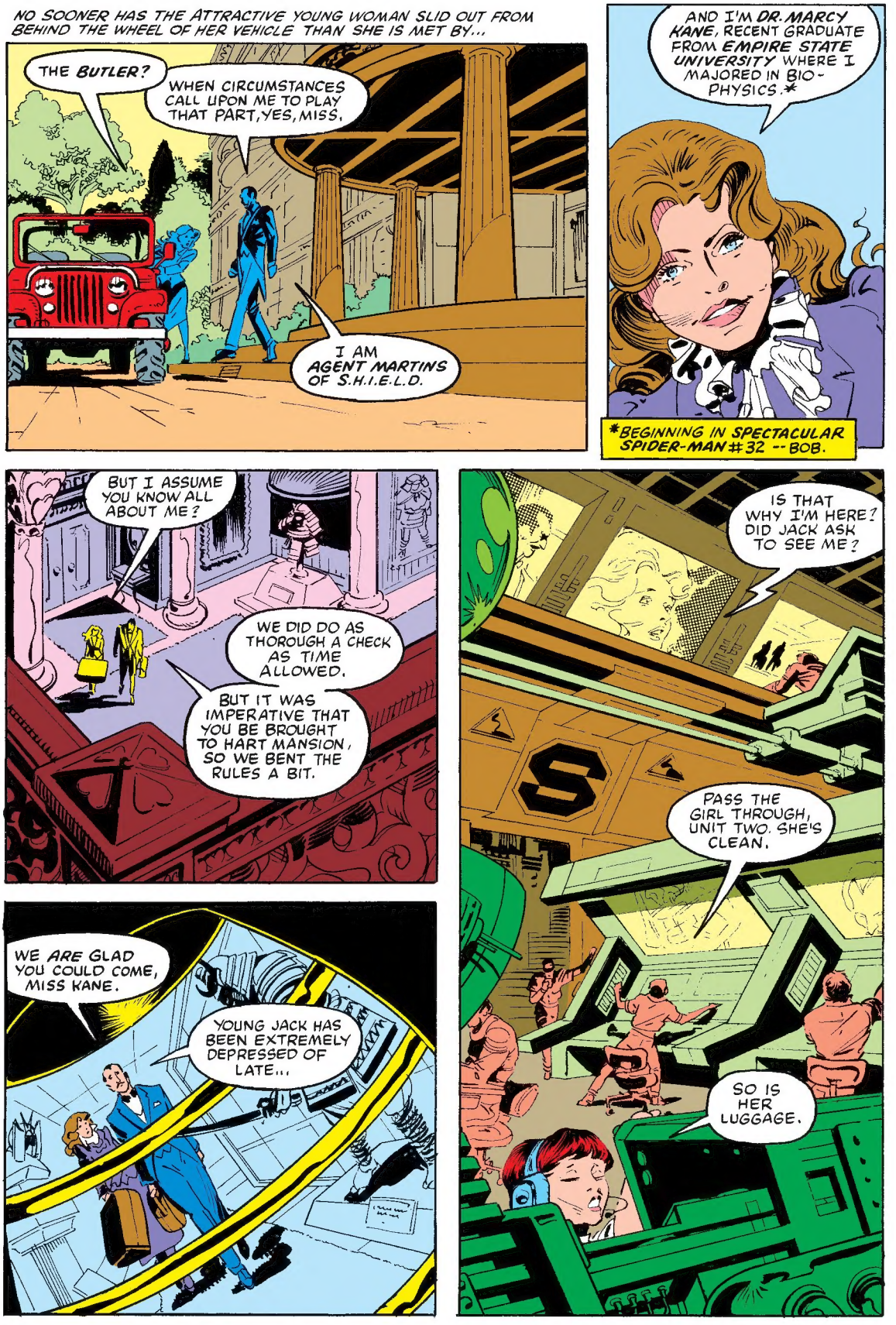


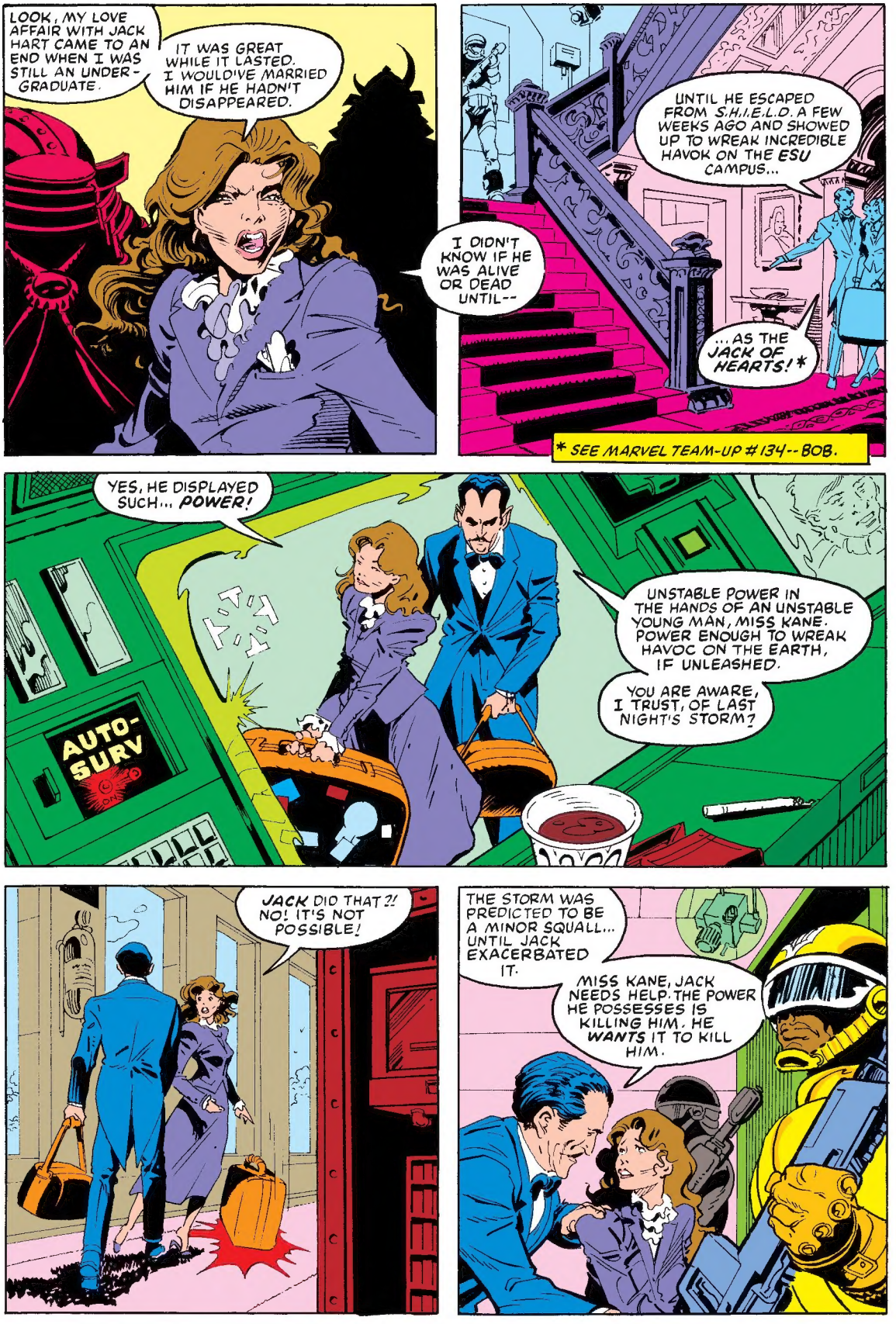
NO. YOU CAN'T KILL A GUY WHO CAN'T EVEN KILL HIMSELF, I SUPPOSE. ALL RIGHT. I'LL COME.
AND YOU CAN TELL ME ALL THE FAIRY TALES ABOUT HOW S.H.I.E.L.D.* IS GONNA CURE ME!

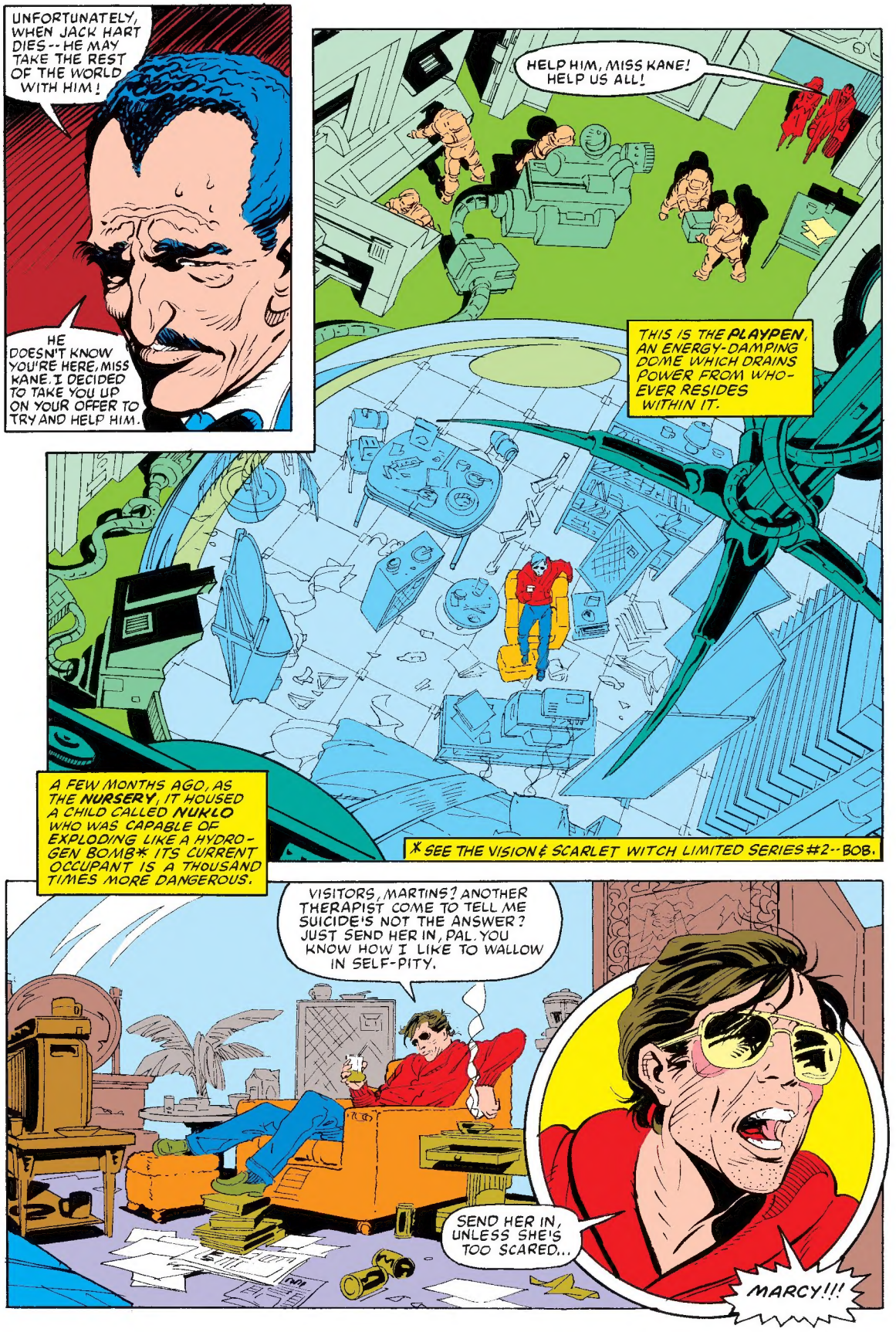
*SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION -- BOB.

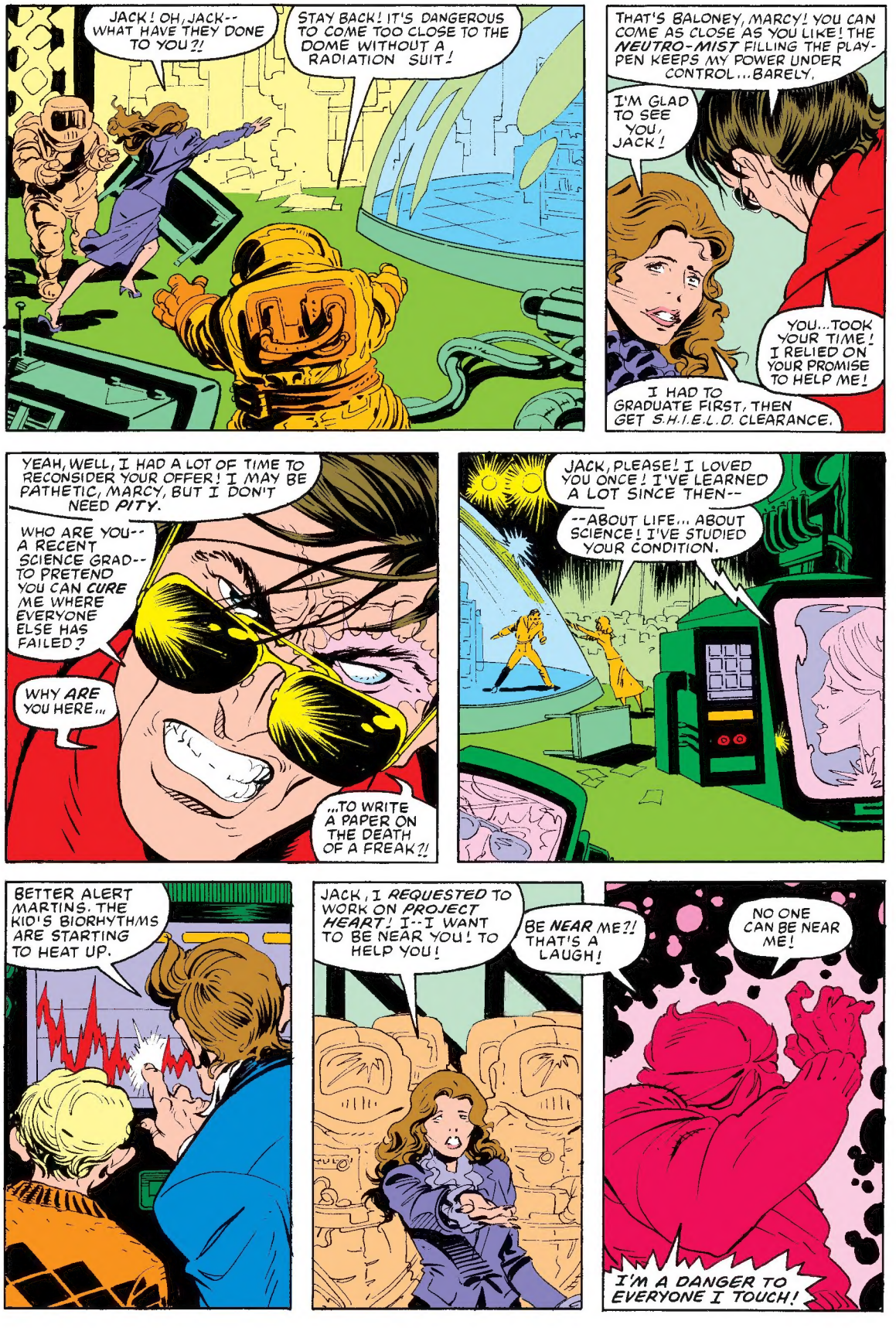


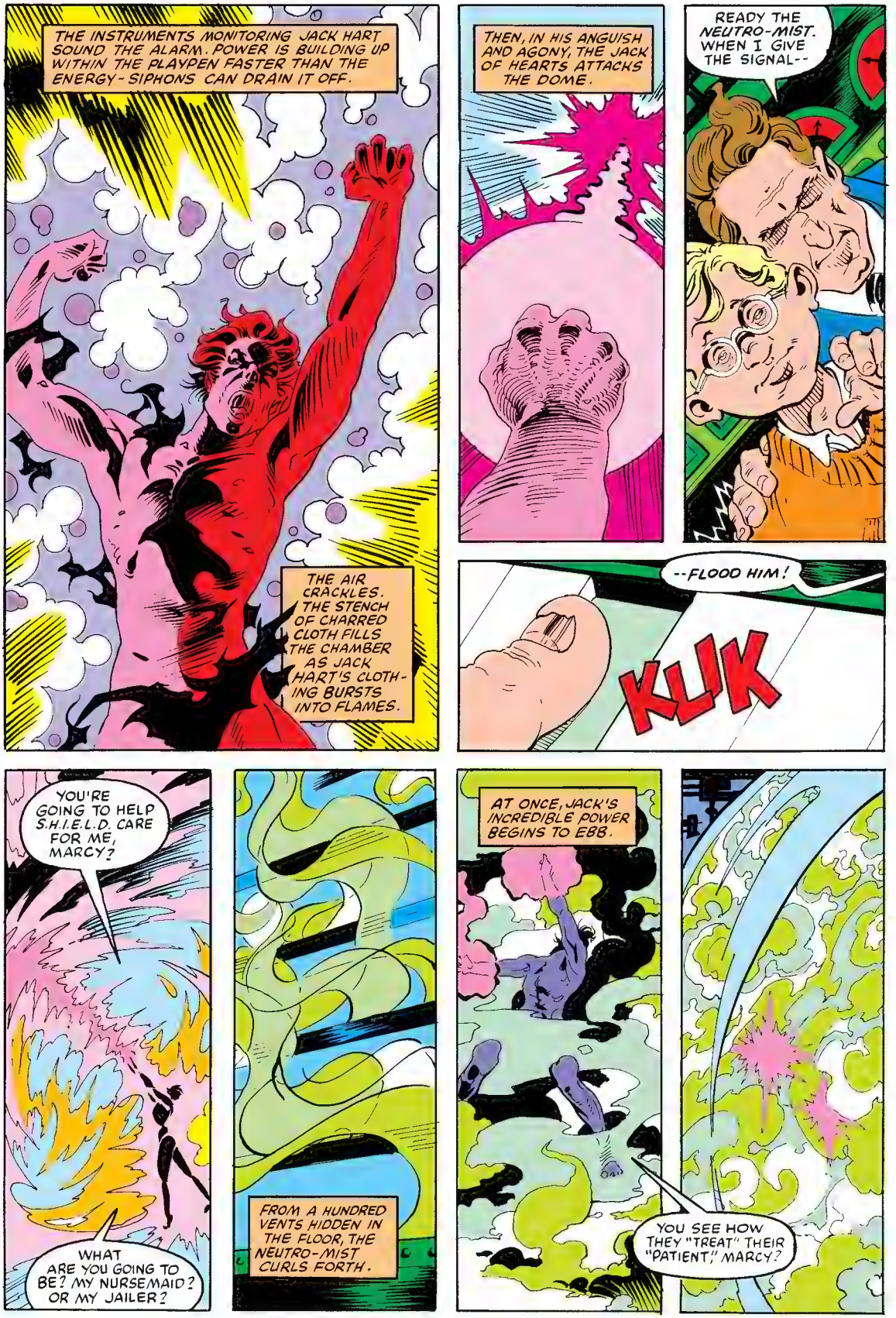


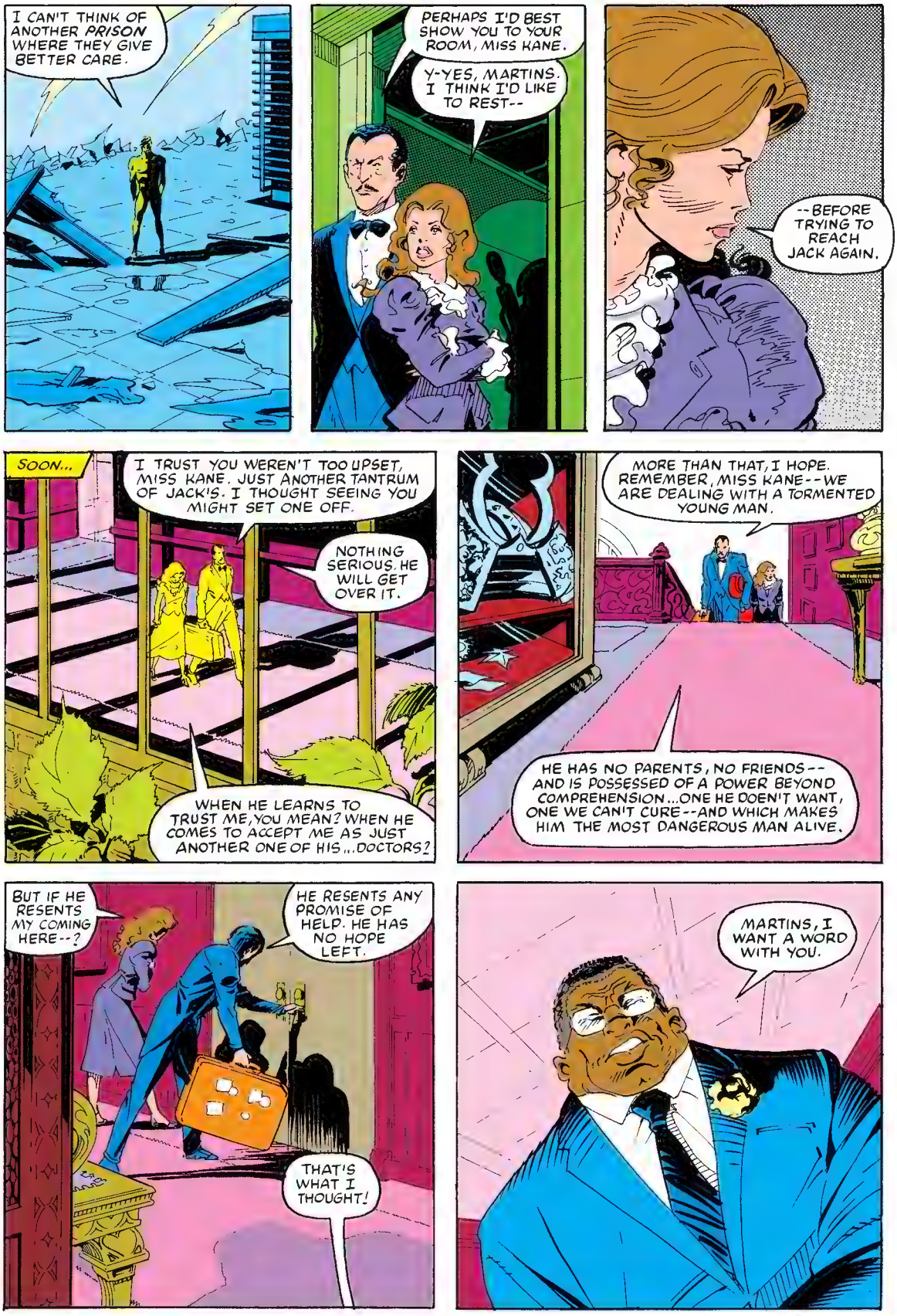

NO SOONER HAS THE ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMAN SLID OUT FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL OF HER VEHICLE THAN SHE IS MET BY...
THE BUTLER?
WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES CALL UPON ME TO PLAY THAT PART, YES, MISS.
I AM AGENT MARTINS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
AND I'M DR. MARCY KANE, RECENT GRADUATE FROM EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY WHERE I MAJORED IN BIO-PHYSICS.*
*BEGINNING IN SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #32 -- BOB.
BUT I ASSUME YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT ME?
WE DID DO AS THOROUGH A CHECK AS TIME ALLOWED.
BUT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU BE BROUGHT TO HART MANSION, SO WE BENT THE RULES A BIT.
IS THAT WHY I'M HERE? DID JACK ASK TO SEE ME?
PASS THE GIRL THROUGH, UNIT TWO. SHE'S CLEAN.
SO IS HER LUGGAGE.
WE ARE GLAD YOU COULD COME, MISS KANE.
YOUNG JACK HAS BEEN EXTREMELY DEPRESSED OF LATE...


LOOK, MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH JACK HART CAME TO AN END WHEN I WAS STILL AN UNDER-GRADUATE.
IT WAS GREAT WHILE IT LASTED. I WOULD'VE MARRIED HIM IF HE HADN'T DISAPPEARED.
I DIDN'T KNOW IF HE WAS ALIVE OR DEAD UNTIL--
UNTIL HE ESCAPED FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. A FEW WEEKS AGO AND SHOWED UP TO WREAK INCREDIBLE HAVOK ON THE ESU CAMPUS...
...AS THE JACK OF HEARTS! *
* SEE MARVEL TEAM-UP #134--BOB.
YES, HE DISPLAYED SUCH... POWER!
AUTO-SURV
UNSTABLE POWER IN THE HANDS OF AN UNSTABLE YOUNG MAN, MISS KANE. POWER ENOUGH TO WREAK HAVOC ON THE EARTH, IF UNLEASHED.
YOU ARE AWARE, I TRUST, OF LAST NIGHT'S STORM?
JACK DID THAT?! NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
THE STORM WAS PREDICTED TO BE A MINOR SQUALL... UNTIL JACK EXACERBATED IT.
MISS KANE, JACK NEEDS HELP. THE POWER HE POSSESSES IS KILLING HIM. HE WANTS IT TO KILL HIM.


UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN JACK HART DIES--HE MAY TAKE THE REST OF THE WORLD WITH HIM!
HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE HERE, MISS KANE. I DECIDED TO TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER TO TRY AND HELP HIM.
HELP HIM, MISS KANE! HELP US ALL!
THIS IS THE PLAYPEN, AN ENERGY-DAMPING DOME WHICH DRAINS POWER FROM WHO-EVER RESIDES WITHIN IT.
A FEW MONTHS AGO, AS THE NURSERY, IT HOUSED A CHILD CALLED NUKLO WHO WAS CAPABLE OF EXPLODING LIKE A HYDRO-GEN BOMB* ITS CURRENT OCCUPANT IS A THOUSAND TIMES MORE DANGEROUS.
*SEE THE VISION & SCARLET WITCH LIMITED SERIES #2--BOB.
VISITORS, MARTINS? ANOTHER THERAPIST COME TO TELL ME SUICIDE'S NOT THE ANSWER? JUST SEND HER IN, PAL. YOU KNOW HOW I LIKE TO WALLOW IN SELF-PITY.
SEND HER IN, UNLESS SHE'S TOO SCARED...
MARCY!!!

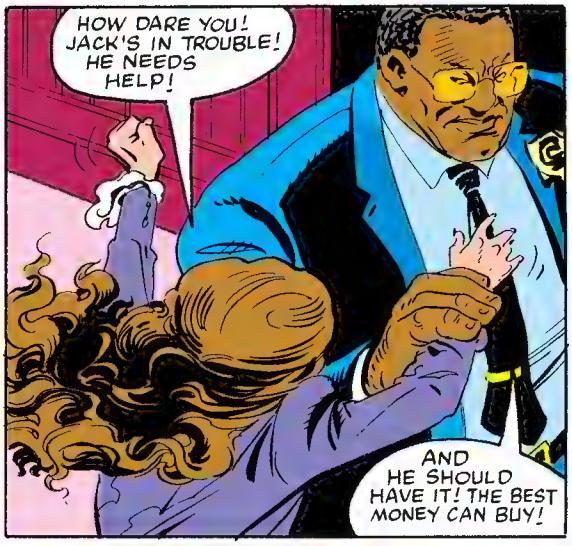

JACK! OH, JACK-- WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?!
STAY BACK! IT'S DANGEROUS TO COME TOO CLOSE TO THE DOME WITHOUT A RADIATION SUIT!
THAT'S BALONEY, MARCY! YOU CAN COME AS CLOSE AS YOU LIKE! THE NEUTRO-MIST FILLING THE PLAY-PEN KEEPS MY POWER UNDER CONTROL...BARELY.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, JACK!
YOU...TOOK YOUR TIME! I RELIED ON YOUR PROMISE TO HELP ME!
I HAD TO GRADUATE FIRST, THEN GET S.H.I.E.L.D. CLEARANCE.
YEAH, WELL, I HAD A LOT OF TIME TO RECONSIDER YOUR OFFER! I MAY BE PATHETIC, MARCY, BUT I DON'T NEED PITY.
WHO ARE YOU-- A RECENT SCIENCE GRAD-- TO PRETEND YOU CAN CURE ME WHERE EVERYONE ELSE HAS FAILED?
WHY ARE YOU HERE...
...TO WRITE A PAPER ON THE DEATH OF A FREAK?!
JACK, PLEASE! I LOVED YOU ONCE! I'VE LEARNED A LOT SINCE THEN--
--ABOUT LIFE... ABOUT SCIENCE! I'VE STUDIED YOUR CONDITION.
BETTER ALERT MARTINS. THE KID'S BIORHYTHMS ARE STARTING TO HEAT UP.
JACK, I REQUESTED TO WORK ON PROJECT HEART! I--I WANT TO BE NEAR YOU! TO HELP YOU!
BE NEAR ME?! THAT'S A LAUGH!
NO ONE CAN BE NEAR ME!
I'M A DANGER TO EVERYONE I TOUCH!

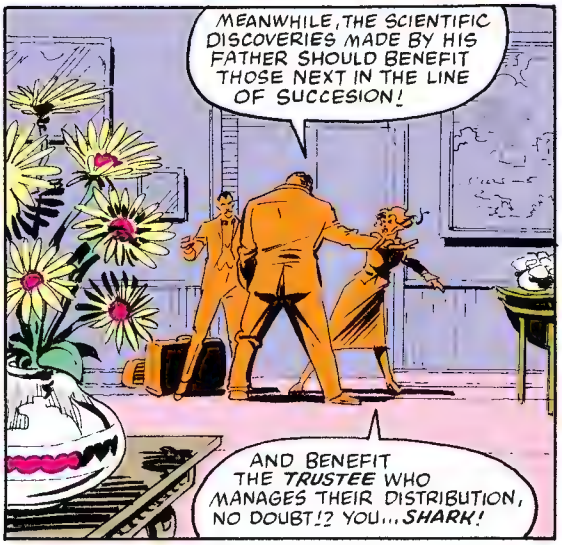

THE INSTRUMENTS MONITORING JACK HART SOUND THE ALARM. POWER IS BUILDING UP WITHIN THE PLAYPEN FASTER THAN THE ENERGY-SIPHONS CAN DRAIN IT OFF.
THE AIR CRACKLES. THE STENCH OF CHARRED CLOTH FILLS THE CHAMBER AS JACK HART'S CLOTHING BURSTS INTO FLAMES.
THEN, IN HIS ANGUISH AND AGONY, THE JACK OF HEARTS ATTACKS THE DOME.
READY THE NEUTRO-MIST. WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL--
--FLOOD HIM!
KLIK
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP S.H.I.E.L.D. CARE FOR ME, MARCY?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE? MY NURSEMAID? OR MY JAILER?
FROM A HUNDRED VENTS HIDDEN IN THE FLOOR, THE NEUTRO-MIST CURLS FORTH.
AT ONCE, JACK'S INCREDIBLE POWER BEGINS TO E88.
YOU SEE HOW THEY "TREAT" THEIR "PATIENT," MARCY?

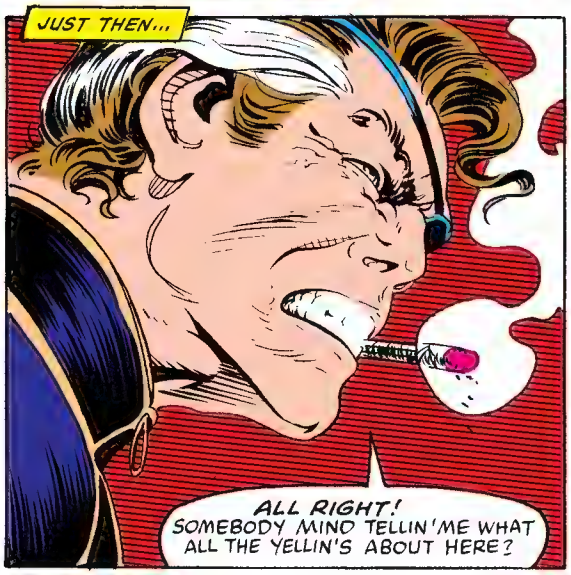

I CAN'T THINK OF ANOTHER PRISON WHERE THEY GIVE BETTER CARE.
PERHAPS I'D BEST SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM, MISS KANE.
Y-YES, MARTINS. I THINK I'D LIKE TO REST--
--BEFORE TRYING TO REACH JACK AGAIN.
SOON...
I TRUST YOU WEREN'T TOO UPSET, MISS KANE. JUST ANOTHER TANTRUM OF JACK'S. I THOUGHT SEEING YOU MIGHT SET ONE OFF.
NOTHING SERIOUS. HE WILL GET OVER IT.
WHEN HE LEARNS TO TRUST ME, YOU MEAN? WHEN HE COMES TO ACCEPT ME AS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF HIS ...DOCTORS?
MORE THAN THAT, I HOPE. REMEMBER, MISS KANE--WE ARE DEALING WITH A TORMENTED YOUNG MAN.
HE HAS NO PARENTS, NO FRIENDS--AND IS POSSESSED OF A POWER BEYOND COMPREHENSION...ONE HE DOEN'T WANT, ONE WE CAN'T CURE--AND WHICH MAKES HIM THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE.
BUT IF HE RESENTS MY COMING HERE--?
HE RESENTS ANY PROMISE OF HELP. HE HAS NO HOPE LEFT.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!
MARTINS, I WANT A WORD WITH YOU.

NEED I REMIND YOU THAT I AM TRUSTEE OF PHILIP HART'S ESTATE--THE MANAGER OF HIS FINANCIAL AFFAIRS FOR FIVE YEARS FROM HIS FATHERS DEATH! AT THAT TIME JACK WILL ASSUME CONTROL--UNLESS HIS COMPETENCE IS CALLED INTO QUESTION--
--IN WHICH CASE I CONTINUE AS TRUSTEE FOR HIS FATHER'S MORE DISTANT HEIRS. I THINK YOU'LL AGREE THAT AN ATTEMPTED SUICIDE MIGHT BE ADJUDGED INCOMPETENT?

MR. SMYTHE, IF YOU WISH AN APPOINTMENT...
I KNOW--I'M SUPPOSED TO REQUEST ONE FROM YOU, AND THEN COOL MY HEELS WAITING FOR A REPLY THAT NEVER COMES!
I'M TIRED OF WAITING, MARTINS--AND OF BEING SLOUGHED OFF BY BUTLERS!

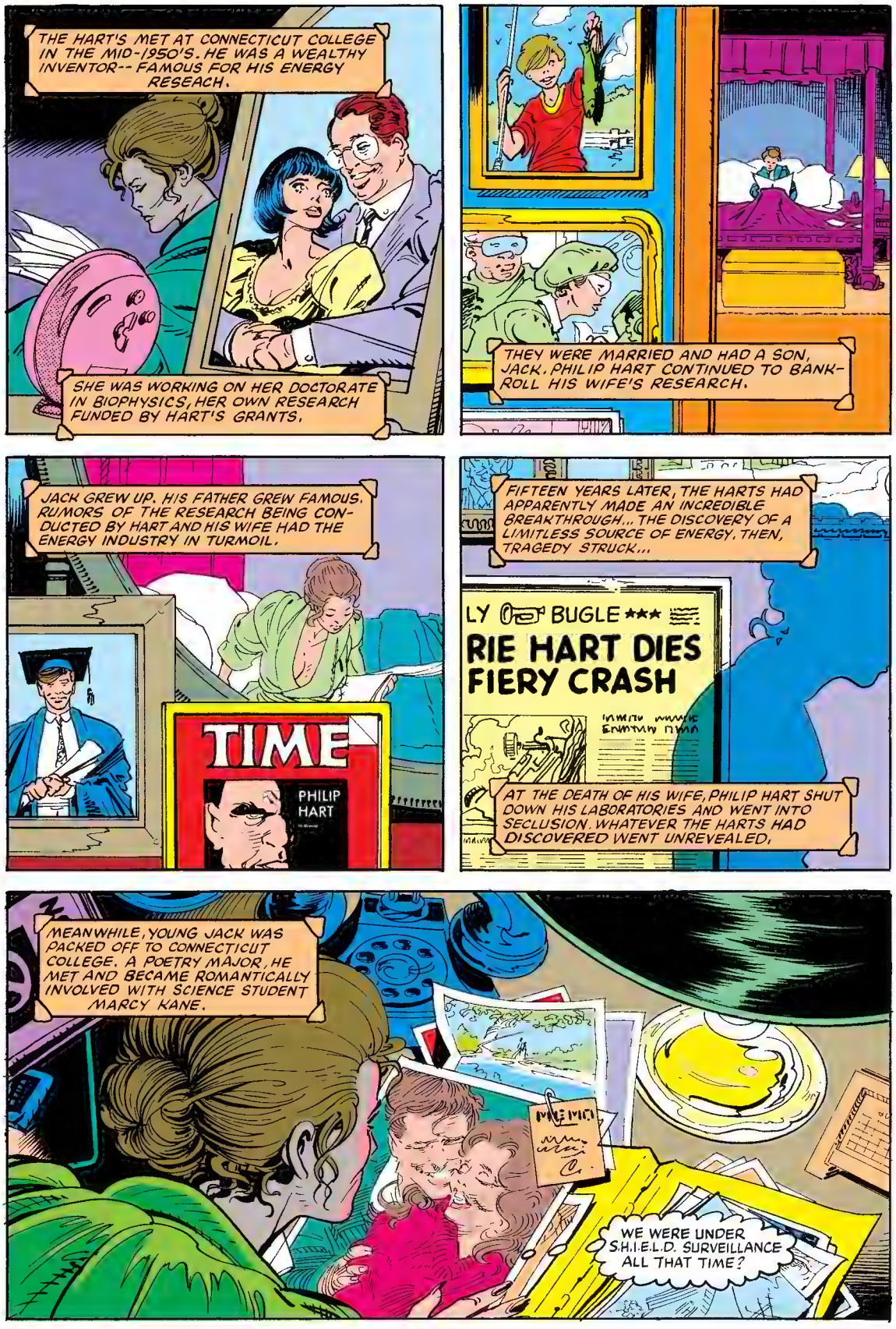

HOW DARE YOU! JACK'S IN TROUBLE! HE NEEDS HELP!
AND HE SHOULD HAVE IT! THE BEST MONEY CAN BUY!


MEANWHILE, THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES MADE BY HIS FATHER SHOULD BENEFIT THOSE NEXT IN THE LINE OF SUCCESION!
AND BENEFIT THE TRUSTEE WHO MANAGES THEIR DISTRIBUTION, NO DOUBT!? YOU...SHARK!


JUST THEN...
ALL RIGHT! SOMEBODY MIND TELLIN'ME WHAT ALL THE YELLIN'S ABOUT HERE?

I AM TRUSTEE OF PHILIP HART'S ESTATE, AND I HAVE A COURT ORDER DEMANDING THAT JACK HART BE PRODUCED THAT HIS COMPETENCY MAY BE DETERMINED!
IZZAT SO?
WELL, I'M COLONEL NICK FURY, IN CHARGE OF AN OUTFIT CALLED S.H.I.E.L.D.--

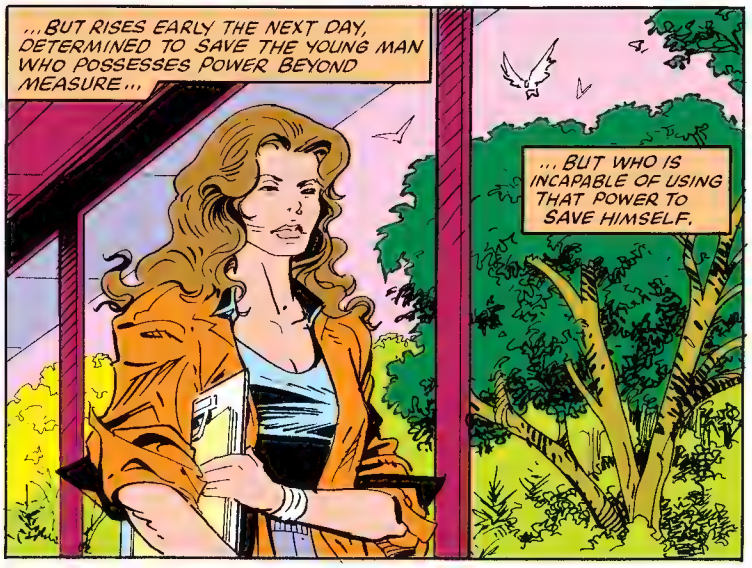
--AN' I THINK MAYBE YOU AN' ME SHOULD HAVE A LITTLE CHAT ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED NATIONAL SECURITY...
...OVER A COUPLE'A BREWS, O'COURSE!
S.H.I.E.L.D.? NATIONAL SECURITY? WELL, I...! THAT IS...!
THAT WAS NICK FURY? JACK'S IMPORTANT ENOUGH THAT THE COMMANDER OF S.H.I.E.L.D. HIMSELF'S INVOLVED IN PROJECT HART?
TANGENTIALLY, MISS KANE. I AM THE SCIENCE OFFICER IN ACTUAL CHARGE.
YOU--?
I AM THE BIOPHYSICIST IN S.H.I.E.L.D.'S EMPLOY. MY ROLE AS BUTLER ALLOWS ME TO DEAL WITH CIVILIANS SUCH AS SMYTHE WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICIONS ABOUT PROJECT HEART.
APPARENTLY, COLONEL FURY HAS DECIDED THAT THINGS CANNOT BE KEPT QUITE SO SECRET AS BEFORE. HENCE, SMYTHE WILL LEARN AS MUCH AS HE NEEDS TO KNOW--
--AND YOU WILL LEARN ALL! THE FILE ON JACK OF HEARTS IS BESIDE YOUR BED, MISS KANE.
IT MAKES FASCINATING BEDTIME READING.
LATER...
BACKGROUND BIOS OF JACK'S PARENTS-- PHILIP AND MARIE HART. HIS IS COMPLETE. HERS, SKETCHY.

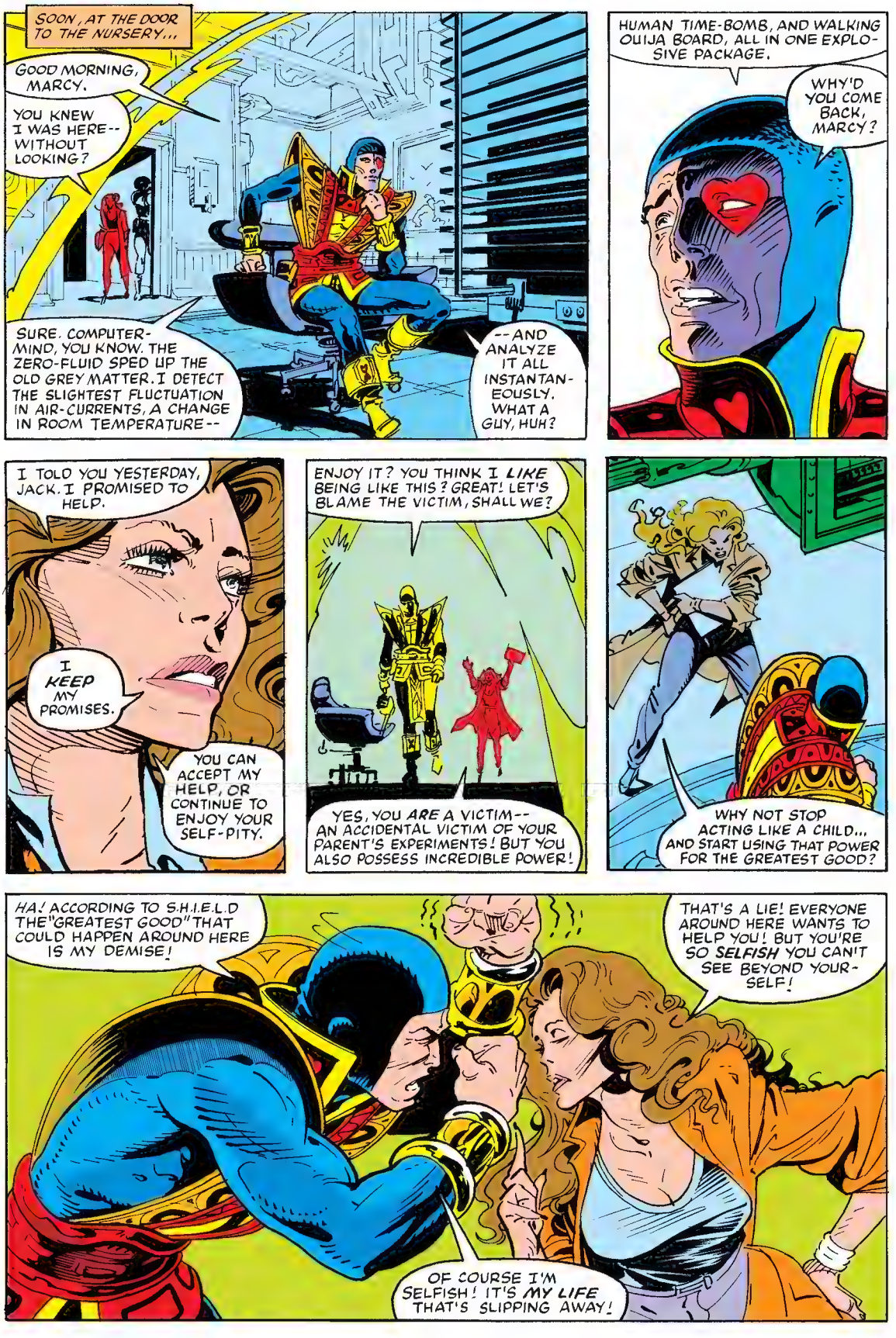

THE HART'S MET AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE IN THE MID-1950'S. HE WAS A WEALTHY INVENTOR-- FAMOUS FOR HIS ENERGY RESEACH.
SHE WAS WORKING ON HER DOCTORATE IN BIOPHYSICS, HER OWN RESEARCH FUNDED BY HART'S GRANTS.
THEY WERE MARRIED AND HAD A SON, JACK. PHILIP HART CONTINUED TO BANK-ROLL HIS WIFE'S RESEARCH.
JACK GREW UP. HIS FATHER GREW FAMOUS. RUMORS OF THE RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED BY HART AND HIS WIFE HAD THE ENERGY INDUSTRY IN TURMOIL.
TIME
PHILIP HART
FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, THE HARTS HAD APPARENTLY MADE AN INCREDIBLE BREAKTHROUGH... THE DISCOVERY OF A LIMITLESS SOURCE OF ENERGY. THEN, TRAGEDY STRUCK...
LY BUGLE ★★★
RIE HART DIES FIERY CRASH
AT THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE, PHILIP HART SHUT DOWN HIS LABORATORIES AND WENT INTO SECLUSION. WHATEVER THE HARTS HAD DISCOVERED WENT UNREVEALED.
MEANWHILE, YOUNG JACK WAS PACKED OFF TO CONNECTICUT COLLEGE. A POETRY MAJOR, HE MET AND BECAME ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH SCIENCE STUDENT MARCY KANE.
WE WERE UNDER S.H.I.E.L.D. SURVEILLANCE ALL THAT TIME?

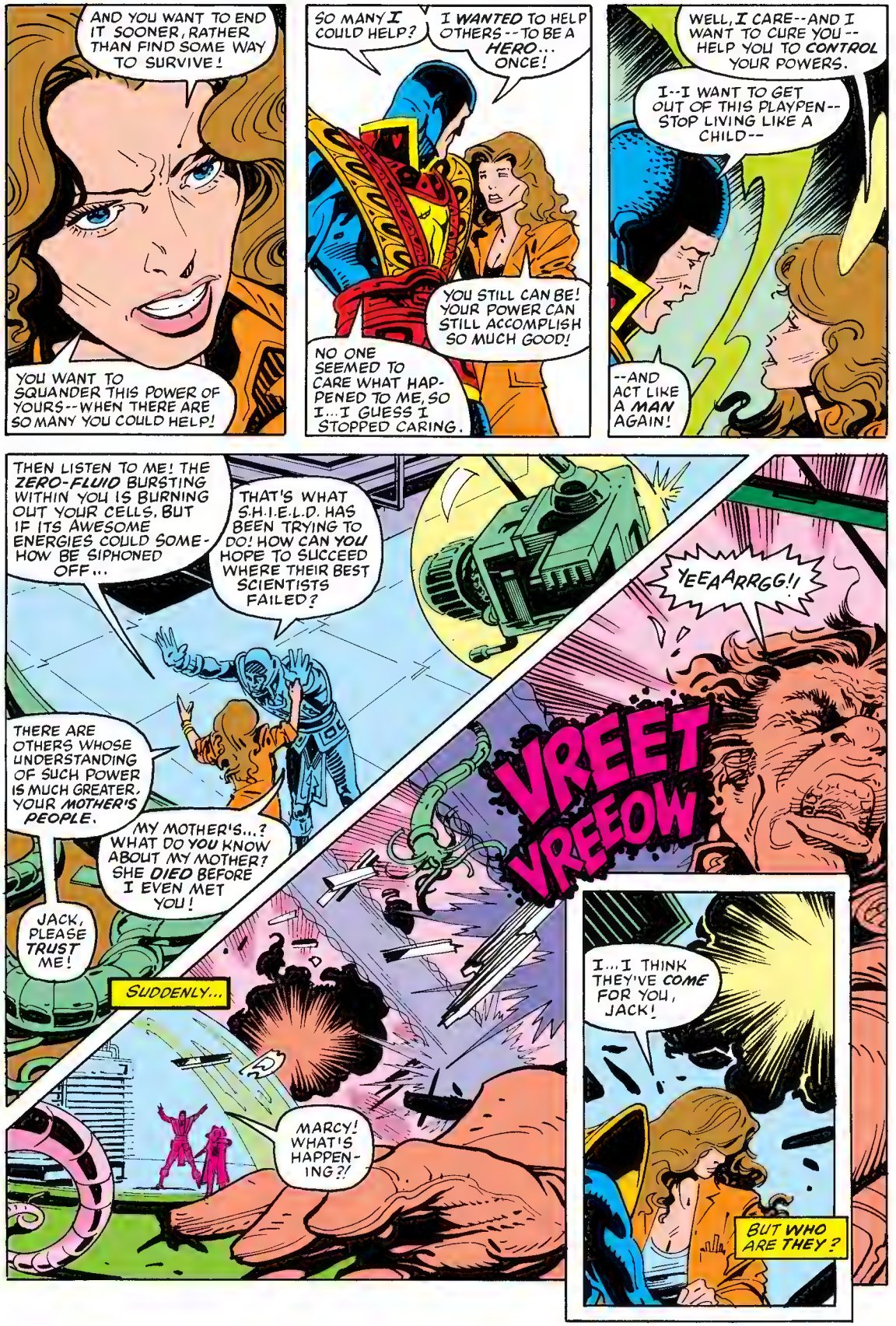
I CAN SEE HOW HIS PARENTS' RESEARCH COULD BE CONSIDERED VITAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY...
...BUT THEY WERE WATCHING JACK AND I FROM THE DAY WE MET UNTIL THE DAY HE DISAPPEARED!
THEY SAW AND HEARD EVERYTHING WE DID TOGETHER! HOW COULD THEY?!
JACK'S "DISAPPEARANCE" FROM SCHOOL RESULTED FROM HIS FATHER'S URGENT SUMMONS. APPARENTLY, PHILIP HART HAD DECIDED TO GIVE HIS DISCOVERY TO HUMANITY AT LONG LAST.
THE ZERO-FLUID WAS THE ULTIMATE ENERGY SOURCE, SELF-RENEWING, LIMITLESS.
FEARING A LOSS OF THEIR PROFITS, AN ENERGY CARTEL CALLED THE CORPORATION HAD HART KILLED.
THE SAME ASSASSINS SOUGHT TO SLAY HART'S SON. JACK HART FLED TO HIS FATHER'S LAB.
THERE, DODGING DEATH, JACK WAS DRIVEN INTO THE VAT CONTAINING ZERO-FLUID
THE SEETHING LIQUID PERMEATED HIS EVERY CELL. BURSTING WITH POWER, JACK HART SOARED FORTH AND REVENGED HIMSELF UPON HIS FATHERS MURDERERS.
ON THAT FATEFUL DAY-- JACK OF HEARTS WAS BORN.

BUT, WHILE IT IS ONE THING TO POSSESS POWER UNDREAMED OF, IT IS QUITE ANOTHER TO LEARN HOW TO WIELD IT. JACK'S EARLY BATTLES DISPLAYED THE EXTENT OF HIS STRENGTH AGAINST A HERO CALLED THE WHITE TIGER, AND THE MAN-MONSTER CALLED THE HULK...
...BUT IT TOOK A VETERAN SUCH AS THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN TO TUTOR JACK IN THE WAYS OF POWER.
WELL-TRAINED, JACK DESTROYED THE CRIMINAL CORPORATION... BUT THEN SANK INTO A DEPRESSION.
THE ENERGY EXPLODING IN HIS CELLS WAS SLOWLY KILLING HIM. HE NEEDED HELP, BUT DISTRUSTED HIS S.H.I.E.L.D. WATCHDOGS.
HE ESCAPED THEM AND SOUGHT HIS OLD LOVER, MARCY KANE... ONLY TO BECOME EMBROILED IN A BATTLE WITH SPIDER-MAN ON THE E.S.U. CAMPUS.

I OFFERED TO HELP HIM! I CAME AS SOON AS I COULD. BUT JACK'S DEPRESSION GREW... UNTIL HE TRIED TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE.
I CAN'T LET HIM COMMIT SUICIDE! HIS POWER-- HARNESSED-- COULD DO SO MUCH GOOD!
EXHAUSTED, MARCY KANE AT LAST SUCCUMBS TO SLEEP...


...BUT RISES EARLY THE NEXT DAY, DETERMINED TO SAVE THE YOUNG MAN WHO POSSESSES POWER BEYOND MEASURE...
...BUT WHO IS INCAPABLE OF USING THAT POWER TO SAVE HIMSELF.


SOON, AT THE DOOR TO THE NURSERY...
GOOD MORNING, MARCY.
YOU KNEW I WAS HERE-- WITHOUT LOOKING?
SURE. COMPUTER-MIND, YOU KNOW. THE ZERO-FLUID SPED UP THE OLD GREY MATTER. I DETECT THE SLIGHTEST FLUCTUATION IN AIR-CURRENTS, A CHANGE IN ROOM TEMPERATURE--
--AND ANALYZE IT ALL INSTANTANEOUSLY. WHAT A GUY, HUH?
HUMAN TIME-BOMB, AND WALKING OUIJA BOARD, ALL IN ONE EXPLOSIVE PACKAGE.
WHY'D YOU COME BACK, MARCY?
I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, JACK. I PROMISED TO HELP.
I KEEP MY PROMISES.
YOU CAN ACCEPT MY HELP, OR CONTINUE TO ENJOY YOUR SELF-PITY.
ENJOY IT? YOU THINK I LIKE BEING LIKE THIS? GREAT! LET'S BLAME THE VICTIM, SHALL WE?
YES, YOU ARE A VICTIM-- AN ACCIDENTAL VICTIM OF YOUR PARENT'S EXPERIMENTS! BUT YOU ALSO POSSESS INCREDIBLE POWER!
WHY NOT STOP ACTING LIKE A CHILD... AND START USING THAT POWER FOR THE GREATEST GOOD?
HA! ACCORDING TO S.H.I.E.L.D THE "GREATEST GOOD" THAT COULD HAPPEN AROUND HERE IS MY DEMISE!
THAT'S A LIE! EVERYONE AROUND HERE WANTS TO HELP YOU! BUT YOU'RE SO SELFISH YOU CAN'T SEE BEYOND YOURSELF!
OF COURSE I'M SELFISH! IT'S MY LIFE THAT'S SLIPPING AWAY!

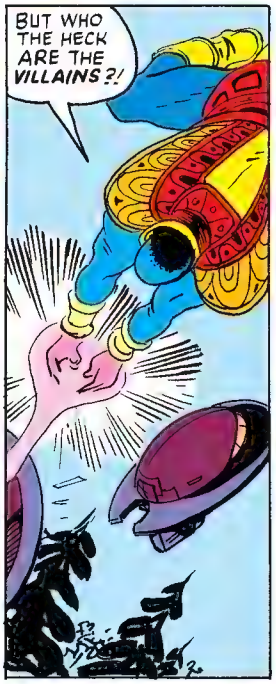

AND YOU WANT TO END IT SOONER, RATHER THAN FIND SOME WAY TO SURVIVE!
YOU WANT TO SQUANDER THIS POWER OF YOURS--WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY YOU COULD HELP!
SO MANY I COULD HELP?
I WANTED TO HELP OTHERS--TO BE A HERO... ONCE!
NO ONE SEEMED TO CARE WHAT HAPPENED TO ME, SO I...I GUESS I STOPPED CARING.
YOU STILL CAN BE! YOUR POWER CAN STILL ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH GOOD!
WELL, I CARE--AND I WANT TO CURE YOU--HELP YOU TO CONTROL YOUR POWERS.
I--I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS PLAYPEN--STOP LIVING LIKE A CHILD--
--AND ACT LIKE A MAN AGAIN!
THEN LISTEN TO ME! THE ZERO-FLUID BURSTING WITHIN YOU IS BURNING OUT YOUR CELLS. BUT IF ITS AWESOME ENERGIES COULD SOMEHOW BE SIPHONED OFF...
THAT'S WHAT S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS BEEN TRYING TO DO! HOW CAN YOU HOPE TO SUCCEED WHERE THEIR BEST SCIENTISTS FAILED?
THERE ARE OTHERS WHOSE UNDERSTANDING OF SUCH POWER IS MUCH GREATER. YOUR MOTHER'S PEOPLE.
MY MOTHER'S...? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY MOTHER? SHE DIED BEFORE I EVEN MET YOU!
JACK, PLEASE TRUST ME!
SUDDENLY...
MARCY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
YEEAARRGG!!
VREET
VREEOW
I...I THINK THEY'VE COME FOR YOU, JACK!
BUT WHO ARE THEY?

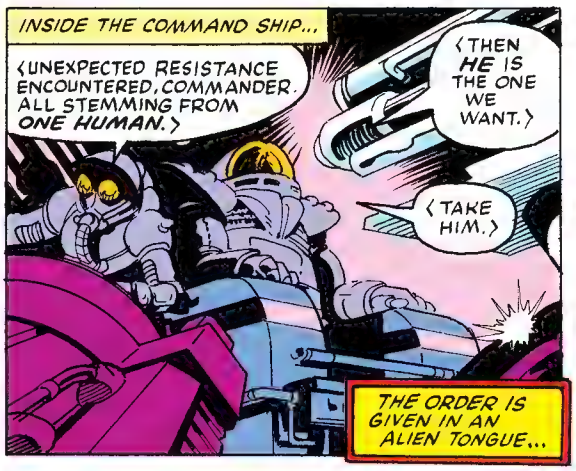
AT THAT MOMENT, S.H.I.E.L.D. IS ASKING ITSELF THAT SAME QUESTION...
AGENT MARTINS! WAS IT JACK? AGAIN?!
COME ON! YOU KNOW MY TANTRUMS BY NOW!
NO! IT WASN'T JACK! THE ESTATE IS UNDER ATTACK!
COL. FURY IS AWAY, SO I'M IN CHARGE!
MARTINS! LET ME OUT! I CAN HELP!
I'M SORRY, JACK--BUT WE JUST GOT YOU BACK!
WE CAN'T RISK LOSING YOU AGAIN!
VREET!
BUT, IF S.H.I.E.L.D. WON'T SHUT DOWN THE PLAYPEN...
...MARCY KANE HAS OTHER IDEAS...
I CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO JACK!
MISS KANE, WHAT ARE YOU--
DOING? SIMPLE! I'M SAVING THE MOST VALUABLE ENERGY SOURCE ON EARTH--
KLIK
OFF
NEUTRO-MIST GENERATOR
--BY ENABLING THE JACK OF HEARTS TO SAVE HIMSELF!
THROWN INTO REVERSE, VENTS DRAW IN THE NUETRO-MISTS FROM THE PLAYPEN. THE JACK OF HEARTS SENSES THE POWER WELLING UP WITHIN HIM UNTIL HE FEELS READY TO BURST!

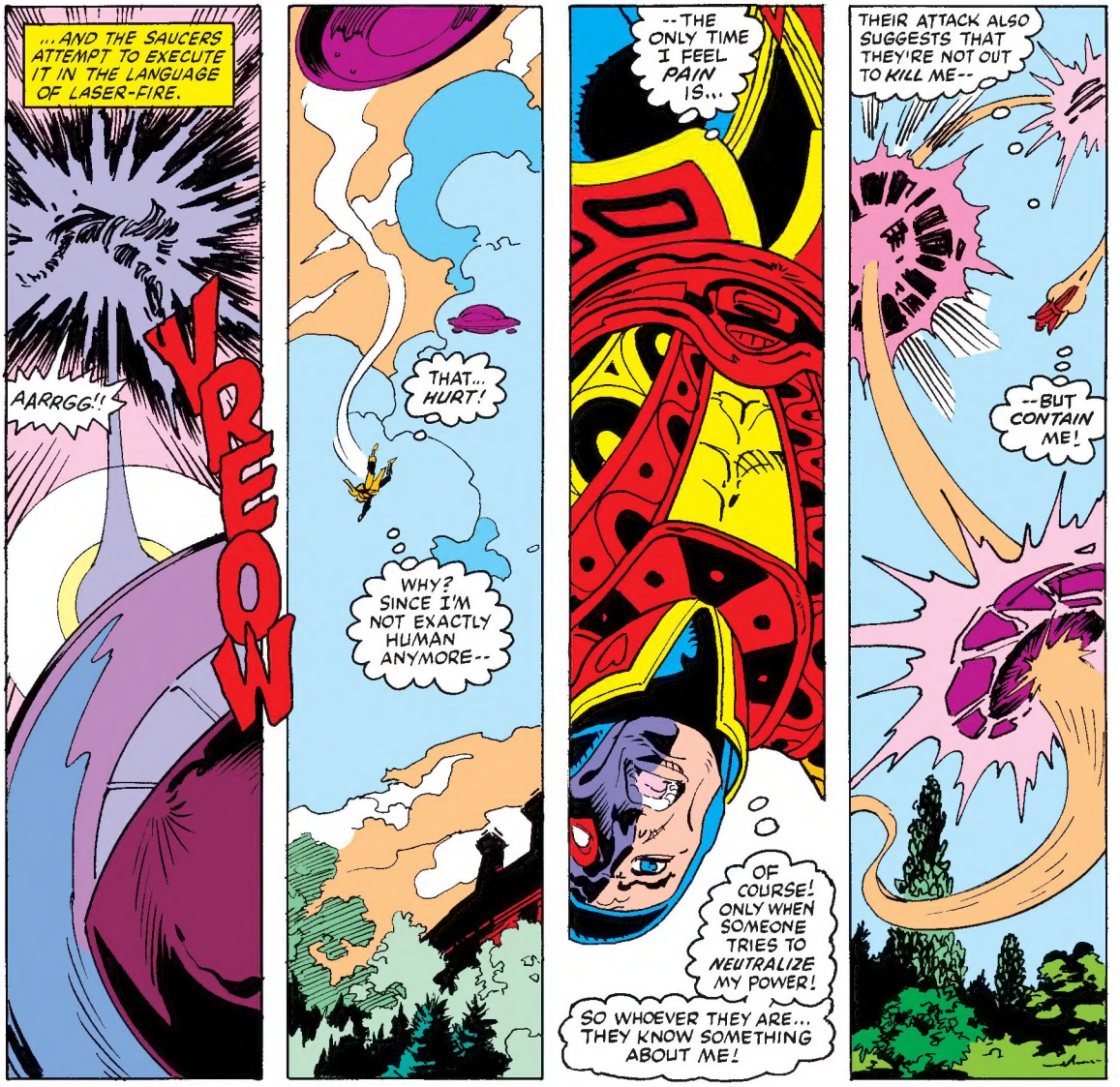
BUT THIS TIME THE POWER IS HARNESSED, CONTAINED WITHIN THE BODY ARMOR THAT ALLOWS JACK TO CHANNEL HIS ZERO-ENERGY THROUGH HIS HANDS AND DIRECT IT AT THOSE WHO ATTACK HIS FAMILY HOME.
THE ESTATE IS BEING ASSAULTED BY... FLYING SAUCERS!?

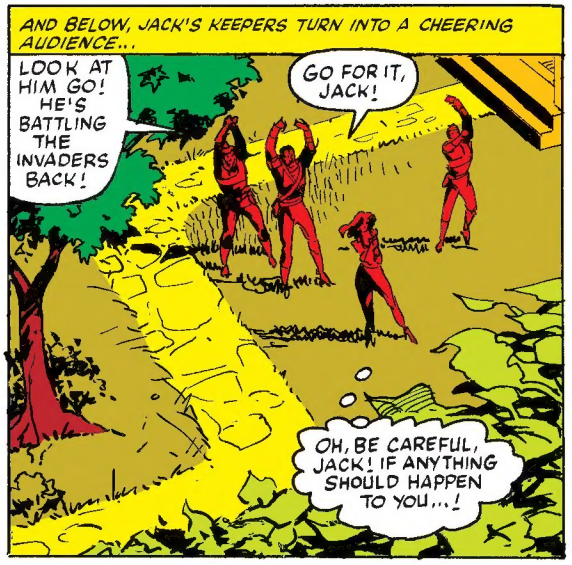
I DON'T KNOW WHAT BRINGS THEM HERE--
--BUT IF IT'S THE JACK OF HEARTS THEY WANT...
...THEY'VE GOT HIM!!
SHSKROOMM

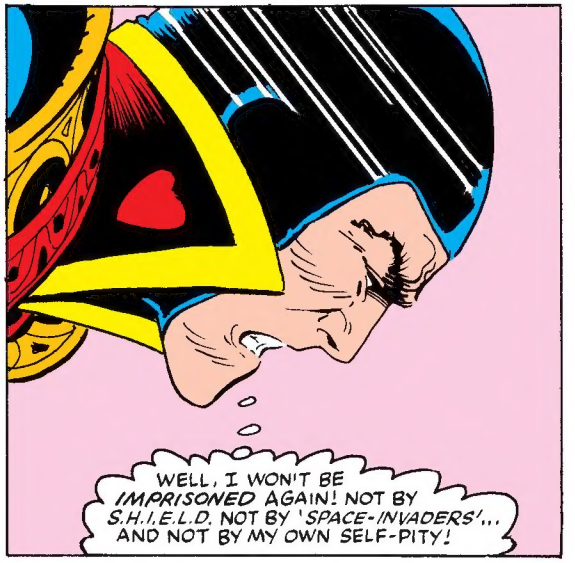
NICE TO BE DOING SOMETHING -- TO LET THE POWER FLOW!
FEELS GOOD TO ACT LIKE A HERO!

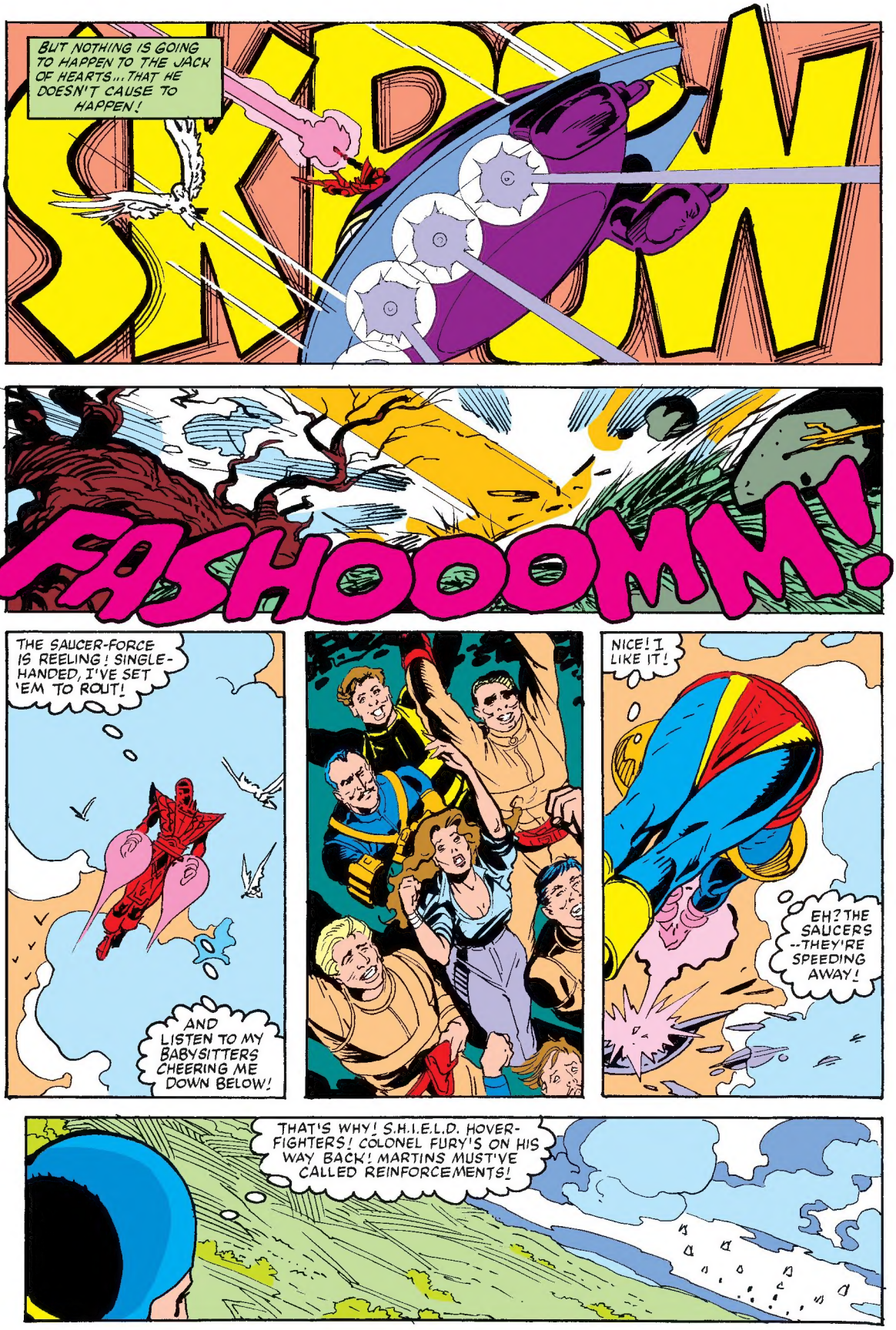

BUT WHO THE HECK ARE THE VILLAINS?!

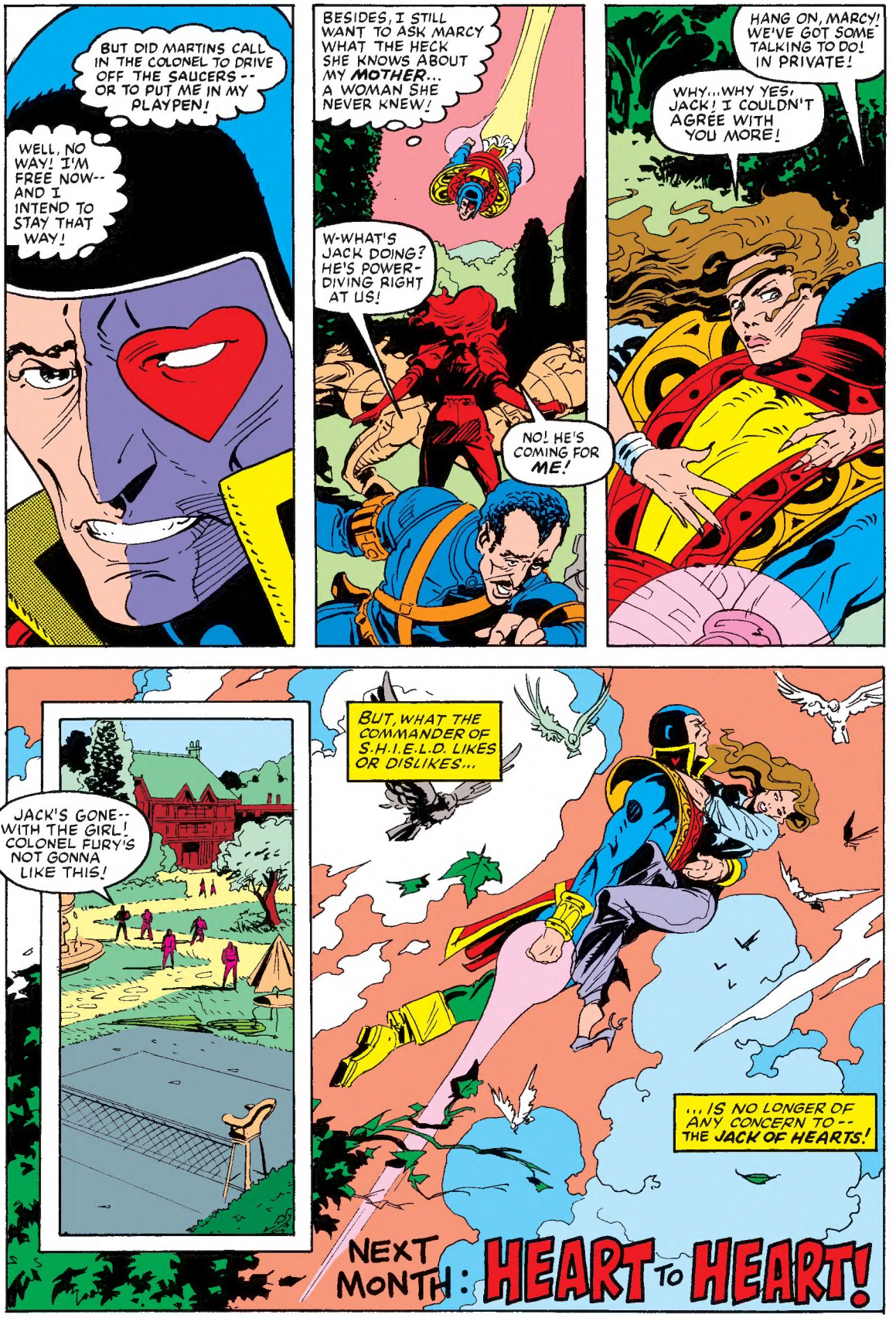

INSIDE THE COMMAND SHIP...
〈UNEXPECTED RESISTANCE ENCOUNTERED, COMMANDER. ALL STEMMING FROM ONE HUMAN.〉
〈THEN HE IS THE ONE WE WANT.〉
〈TAKE HIM.〉
THE ORDER IS GIVEN IN AN ALIEN TONGUE...


...AND THE SAUCERS ATTEMPT TO EXECUTE IT IN THE LANGUAGE OF LASER-FIRE.
AARRGG!!
YREOW
THAT... HURT!
WHY? SINCE I'M NOT EXACTLY HUMAN ANYMORE--
--THE ONLY TIME I FEEL PAIN IS...
OF COURSE! ONLY WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO NEUTRALIZE MY POWER!
SO WHOEVER THEY ARE... THEY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT ME!
THEIR ATTACK ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THEY'RE NOT OUT TO KILL ME--
--BUT CONTAIN ME!


AND BELOW, JACK'S KEEPERS TURN INTO A CHEERING AUDIENCE...
LOOK AT HIM GO! HE'S BATTLING THE INVADERS BACK!
GO FOR IT, JACK!
OH, BE CAREFUL, JACK! IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO YOU...!


WELL, I WON'T BE IMPRISONED AGAIN! NOT BY S.H.I.E.L.D. NOT BY 'SPACE-INVADERS'... AND NOT BY MY OWN SELF-PITY!


BUT NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE JACK OF HEARTS...THAT HE DOESN'T CAUSE TO HAPPEN!
SKRULL
FASHOOOMM!
THE SAUCER-FORCE IS REELING! SINGLE-HANDED, I'VE SET 'EM TO ROUT!
AND LISTEN TO MY BABYSITTERS CHEERING ME DOWN BELOW!
NICE! I LIKE IT!
EH? THE SAUCERS --THEY'RE SPEEDING AWAY!
THAT'S WHY! S.H.I.E.L.D. HOVER-FIGHTERS! COLONEL FURY'S ON HIS WAY BACK! MARTINS MUST'VE CALLED REINFORCEMENTS!


BUT DID MARTINS CALL IN THE COLONEL TO DRIVE OFF THE SAUCERS -- OR TO PUT ME IN MY PLAYPEN!
WELL, NO WAY! I'M FREE NOW-- AND I INTEND TO STAY THAT WAY!
BESIDES, I STILL WANT TO ASK MARCY WHAT THE HECK SHE KNOWS ABOUT MY MOTHER... A WOMAN SHE NEVER KNEW!
W-WHAT'S JACK DOING? HE'S POWER-DIVING RIGHT AT US!
NO! HE'S COMING FOR ME!
HANG ON, MARCY! WE'VE GOT SOME TALKING TO DO! IN PRIVATE!
WHY...WHY YES, JACK! I COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU MORE!
JACK'S GONE-- WITH THE GIRL! COLONEL FURY'S NOT GONNA LIKE THIS!
BUT, WHAT THE COMMANDER OF S.H.I.E.L.D. LIKES OR DISLIKES...
...IS NO LONGER OF ANY CONCERN TO -- THE JACK OF HEARTS!
NEXT MONTH: HEART TO HEART!

KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA